

Message Text

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45 41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 291140 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 682

INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2919

E. O. 1165 2: GDS

TAGS: MASS CB

SUBJ: FANK PAYROLL PADDING

REF: A. SECSTATE 056281

A. REF A. REQUESTED FEBRUARY FANK PAYROLL FIGURES.

2. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED FEBRUARY PAYROLL FIGURES FROM FANK FINANCE SERVICE FOR ALL MILITARY REGIONS. FANK REPORTS FEBRUARY PAYROLL TOTAL IS 278,430. WHEN COMPARED WITH THE 282,753 REPORTED BY FANK FOR JANUARY, THIS IS A REDUCTION OF 4,323.

3. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE MARSHAL HAS NOW PERSONALLY ENDORSED THE EMG FORCE STRUCTURE PLAN PROMULGATED IN DECEMBER 72 AND HAS DIRECTED THAT ALL MAJOR COMMANDS AND UNITS REDUCE TO THE EMG PRESCRIBED STRENGTH LEVELS BY THE END OF MARCH. THIS WOULD MEAN REDUCTION TO FINAL APPROVED STRENGTH OF 253,378.

WE CONSIDER THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE NECESSITY TO REDUCE TO THIS FIGURE BY THE MARSHAL AND HIS PERSONAL ORDER TO THE SENIOR COMMANDERS TO DO SO WILL CAUSE A GREATER REDUCTION IN MARCH THAN IN PAST MONTHS BUT IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT FANK CAN REDUCE BY 26,000 IN ONLY ONE MONTH.

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4. THE FANK DEVELOPED FORCE STRUCTURE PLAN IS SOUND AND CONCRETE STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ACHIEVE THIS 253,000 MAN FORCE. NOW THAT THE MARSHAL HAS PUBLICLY GIVEN HIS FULL ENDORSEMENT TO THE PLAN, THOSE COMMANDERS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY RELIED ON THEIR INFLUENCE WITH THE MARSHAL TO HOLD THEIR PRESENT STRENGTHS WIL BE FORCED TO REDUCE TO THEIR EMG DESIGNATED STRENGTH FIGURES.

5. THE FEBRUARY PAY TEST IN MR II INVOLVED THE WITHDRAWAL FROM UNITS OF ALL RESPONSIBILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH PAYROLL PREPARATION, COMPUTATION AND PAYMENT BY UNIT PERSONNEL. THIS SIGNIFICANT PROCEDURAL CHANGE FROM THE OLD SYSTEM OF PROVIDING PAYROLL FUNDS TO COMMANDERS FOR PAYMENT IN AMOUNTS, AND AT SUCH TIMES AS THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE, HAS BEEN MET WITH HOSTILITY BY SOME UNIT COMMANDERS. HOWEVER, THE HIGH COMMAND HAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE NEW SYSTEM. THE FACT IS, FANK IS MAKING POSITIVE EFFORTS AND AS THE PROBLEMS ARE WORKED OUT, FANK PLANS ARE TO EXTEND TO OTHER REGIONS INCORPORATING THE FULL BENEFITS OF A SEMI- MODERN PAY STRUCTURE. TO PUSH ANY HARDER FOR RAPID IMPLEMENTATION COULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT CRITICAL SITUATION.

SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM02919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730341/aaaailmv.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.SECSTATE 056281
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980107
Subject: FANK PAYROLL PADDING
TAGS: MASS, CB
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005